

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM SPOP PINS LA
SUBJECT: WIVES OF FORMER VIENTIANE SIDE MILITARY TO JOIN THEIR
HUSBANDS IN RURAL AREAS

1. THE LAO "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" DECEMBER 21 PUBLISHED
AN ARTICLE EXPLAINING THE POLICY OF THE PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT TOWARD DEPENDENTS OF FORMER VIENTIANE SIDE
MILITARY OFFICERS NOW IN INTERNAL EXILE IN THE "OLD
LIBERATED AREAS".

2. THE ARTICLE REPORTED ON A MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
CONVENED MEETING OF ALL DEPENDENTS OF FORMER VIENTIANE
SIDE MILITARY OFFICERS FROM ONE OF THE DISTRICTS IN
VIENTIANE. AT THE MEETING, DEPENDENTS WERE TOLD
THAT THEY SHOULD "TAKE PART IN DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY"
AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOVERNMENT
OFFERS TO "HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION", NOTING THAT
"CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDYING FROM SECONDARY LEVEL DOWN
TO PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY CONTINUE STUDY IN THE OLD
LIBERATED ZONES". THE ARTICLE REPORTED GOVERNMENT
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RECOMMENDATIONS THAT PROPERTY OF THE DEPENDENTS COULD
BE TURNED OVER TO RELATIVES OR SOLD TO THE GOVERNMENT
OR RENTED. THE ARTICLE ADDED THAT "OTHER DISTRICTS
ARE DOING THE SAME THING."

3. A LAO LOCAL EMPLOYEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS SISTER-

IN-LAW WAS AMONG APPROXIMATELY 100 FAMILIES OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS AND FATHERS FOUR MONTHS AGO, BUT WHO WERE STILL AWAITING TRANSPORT TO VIENGSAI. HE SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 35 FAMILIES HAD ALREADY LEFT VIENTIANE.

4. VARIOUS LOCAL LAO SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD IN RECENT SEMINARS THAT WIVES AND FAMILIES OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS WOULD BE RUSTICATED AS PART OF A GENERAL GOVERNMENT PLAN TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANTLY THE POPULATION OF VIENTIANE DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977.

5. COMMENT: ALL THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE RESTICATIONS TO VIENGSAI IN 1975 WERE ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN AN INTERNAL POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION WHICH MAY ALSO INCLUDE SHIFTING THE URBAN LAO POPULATION SUCH AS IT WAS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND DISPERSING THE REMNANTS OF THE VIENTIANE BOURGEOISIE.
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